Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know the names of those connected with this defalcation. It is not given here.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I do not know. It is practically impossible to say who are responsible because the matter is under enquiry. Two suspected names I can give.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—When was it found out? When did it take place?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It has been going on for at least two years.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—When was it brought to your notice?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—About three months ago.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—During these three months were they not able to know who were connected with this defalcation?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It is very hard to say. But I can give the names of the suspected persons if the guilt is proved.

Compassionate gratuity—applications for.

123. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications have been received so far for grants from the widows' fund, notified in the Government Gazette in Chingam 1108;

(b) the names of such applicants with the dates of their applications;

(c) the names of those to whom payment has already been made;

(d) the names of those to whom payment has been refused; and the reasons for the refusal in each case;

(e) the names of those whose cases are still pending with the Government; and the reasons for the delay in each case?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—(a) 700 applications.

(b) The list is placed on the Council Table.

(c) No payment to any has been made yet.

(d) The question of refusal has not yet arisen. It will arise only when the request is found inadmissible while disposing of each of the applications so far received.

(e) All applications are pending disposal. A forecast of the probable expenditure for payment to all the applicants was made with a view to ascertaining the financial commitment involved and each claim is now being scrutinised more accurately. The question of additional hands proposed for the quick disposal of the matter is pending consideration. The main reasons for the delay is the large number of applications and the time required for a preliminary check.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—I understand that there are applications even from 1106 and that the fund was sanctioned in Karkadagam 1107. Will the Government be pleased to say how there was such a long delay in paying at least a few of the applications every year?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—I think the answer is given in (e).

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—In 1107 there might not have been so many applications as there are now. We had the whole of 1108 and no application has been disposed of.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—We had to call for applications from all those who are entitled to that concession. That took a long time.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—These applications have to be submitted before a certain date.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—It is not possible. Even now we are receiving applications.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Why was it not possible to fix a date?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—There were so many people and they have to ascertain their cases.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—At the end of 1108 all the cases happening in that year may be asked to apply and a particular date, say 30th Chingom 1109 or some such date may be fixed upon and all the applications coming by that time may be dealt with.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—It will be very hard to fix a date for the applications to be definitely dealt with.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will it not be hard still to keep people waiting from 1106 to 1109?

Appointments made in the last 4 years.

124. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the names of officers appointed in the last four years giving the maximum salary of the posts;

(b) the maximum salaries attached to their posts;

(c) the reasons in each case for granting the maximum salary?

Raina Varmha Tampuran.—A statement containing the available information is appended. (*Appendix II*).

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Appendix II. What made the Government to appoint an officer who was drawing a higher salary than for this post?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly